

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMCONSUL IZMIR
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USMISSION USNATO
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GE
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USICA FOR VOA/PN, PGM/RC, PGM/PPE, EU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, TU, US
SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS ON SECURITY AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

1. ALL MAJOR TURKISH DAILIES AUGUST 25 REPORT ON THE
MONTHLY NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (NSC) MEETING, CHAIRED
BY ACTING PRESIDENT SIRRI ATALAY AND ATTENDED BY PRIMIN
ECEVIT, WHICH ACCORDING TO THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WAS
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DEVOTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE ISSUES OF STATE SECURITY AND
PUBLIC ORDER. "HURRIYET", HOWEVER, WHOSE REPORTING ON NSC
MATTERS HAS BEEN RELIABLE IN THE PAST, ADDS THAT THE LIFTING
OF THE EMBARGO AND THE OPENING OF US BASES WAS ALSO DISCUSSED.
ACCORDING TO "LEAKS FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES", "MILLIYET" REPORTS
THAT US AUTHORITIES AND NATO WANT THE OPENING OF THE BASES AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE; BUT GOT HAS NOT YET GIVEN A DEFINITE REPLY.

SAME SOURCES STATED THAT FOLLOWING THE OFFICIAL LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO IN SEPTEMBER, TALKS WILL BEGIN WITH THE US ON THE REARRANGING OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, AND WITHIN THAT CONTEXT THE BASES SINCE ELEKDAG'S RETURN, TURKISH PRESS CONTINUES TO SPECULATE ON THE CURRENT IMF MISSION WITH MOST PAPERS PESSIMISTIC AS TO GOT'S ABILITY TO QUALIFY FOR NEXT TRANCHE OF IMF STANDBY LOAN. PAPERS REPORT IMF WANTS FURTHER DEVALUATION AND AT LEAST ONE COLUMNIST (TEOMAN EREL IN AUGUST 23 "TERCUMAN") HAS COMPARED TURKISH AND PORTUGUESE SITUATIONS, NOTING THAT IMF CARES NOTHING ABOUT DEMOCRACY AND RESULT IN PORTUGAL WAS FALL OF SOARES; ANALOGOUS TURKISH IMPLICATION IS CLEAR.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE THE GREAT CONCERN EXPRESSED IN PRIVATE BY SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT OVER THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE WASHINGTON TALKS, THESE OFFICIALS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE PASSING THEIR OWN SENSE OF IMMEDIATE CRISIS ON TO THE PRESS OR PUBLIC AT LARGE. THE GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC POSTURE SINCE THE RETURN OF ELEKDAG AND MUEZZINOGLU FROM WASHINGTON HAS BEEN TO SAY AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE IN PUBLIC AND TO PUT THE BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON THESE VISITS. BEFORE GOING PUBLIC AGAIN, THE GOT MAY BE AWAITING THE RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT IMF VISIT AND PONDERING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ELEKDAG DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON. DILLON

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